He recalls adverse family reaction to an incident which got him expelled from school when he was 11 years old. He insists that it had been precipitated by another boy: "I was hounded morning, noon and night for more than a month. `But ----, Dear, it's all for your good. We punish you because we love you so.' Hell!" Subsequently in B.C. he was hounded by his uncle for "vulgarity," which, as he interprets it, "meant hard toil and over-alls." He could not win:

> I lost job after job, was scolded by Uncle ---- and Aunt ---- for keeping them, and by ---- for throwing them up. Therefore melancholia. Therefore Asylum. Therefore insanity. Therefore hopelessness for this world and the next. Therefore what I have already determined.

(Labelling -- A Bungling Father)

A letter to his father from Mr. Cooper's former employer, dated November 25, 1910, indicates how a man could accidentally be labelled by his own father -- with disastrous consequences. The supervisor's impression of his employee's character seemed to alter as he wrote. He "remembered" that he began to suspect that something was the matter with Mr. Cooper when the latter, who had been a "capable" teacher for the first month of his contract, stated his intention to quit on November 30. However this impression was strengthened by the father's enquiry, for the supervisor now feels that if he had received it earlier he would have "dismissed [him] at once." He similarly revises his opinion of Mr. Cooper, retroactively: "I have thought for some time that there was something wrong with him." Nothing is made of the young man's expressed aversion to "school work," his own opinion that "it would be better for the children and himself for him to quit."

The supervisor was evidently the source of the father's information, related to the Asylum authorities, that his son had "acted queer" in school. He related the children's stories of the young man forgetting that the had asked them to stand up, laughing without reason, gazing out the window, etc. He also made a great deal of his "walking along an untravelled and swampy side-road," and lecturing (the very evening of the day of writing) in the Town hall on "the advantage of 60 acre farms instead of 160."